HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) The proposal to set up a National Commission on Women as also its terms of reference is under consideration of the Government.

Illiteracy among women in the country

846. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of illiteracy among women in the country, what are the new educational opportunities being extended to them for the removal of this large scale illiteracy; and

(b) the state-wise progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) The illiteracy rate of women in the country according to 1981 census is 75.18 per cent. Some of the strategies initiated to promote women's education throughout the country, with emphasis on rural and tribal areas, include the following:—

(i) Mahalia Samakhya: The basic thrust of this programme is to create mechanisms whereby women are given an opportunity to plan and monitor their own education and reach out to a new body of knowledge. It aims at involving women in the process of educational planning at the village level and providing educational inputs like non-formal education training of school teachers and production of educational material. This project has been launched in 10 districts, 3 each of Gujarat and Karnataka and 4 of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Non-formal Education: Ninety per cent assistance is released for running of Non-Formal Education Centres for girls in the 10 educationally backward states.

(iii) Adult Education: Specific steps taken to enlarge coverage of women in adult education programme include:—

— Mobilisation of women learners in large numbers for ensuring enrolment of at least 50 per cent women in adult education centres;

—appointment of large numbers of women adult education functionaries such as Instructors and Preraks, even by relaxing the minimum qualifications;

—involvement of a large number of voluntary agencies, especially those working for women;

—more attention by Shramik Vidyapeeths to women workers;

—special orientation and training of women Instructors as effective agents for promoting women's equality;

—provision of opportunities for retention of literacy skills and application of learning for improving their living conditions;

—involvement of Central and State Social Welfare Boards with adult education programme; and

—production of films on female literacy and empowerment and their telecast through Doordarshan.

(b) According to information received from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, 221 16 lakh women were enrolled under adult education programme during the VII Five Year Plan (upto 31-12-89). A statement showing the statewise enrolment during this period is attached.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UTS	Enrolment
1	Andhra Pradesh	8,05,280
2	Arunachal Pradesh	66,430
3	Assam	6,66,952
4	Bihar	25,18,287
5	Goa	7,501
6	Gujarat	11,53,937
7	Haryana	7,17,747
8	Himachal Pradesh	1,51,162
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1,78,921
10	Karnataka	9,30,291
11	Kerala	1,44,574
12	Madhya Pradesh	19,74,650
13	Maharasthra	23,77,200
14	Manipur	1,29,516
15	Meghalaya	37,792
16	Mizoram	22,554
17	Nagaland	56,697
18	Orissa	5,87,669
19	Punjab	5,36,663
20	Rajasthan	10,83,057
21	Sikkim	17,731
22	Tamil Nadu	30,59,530
23	Tripura	99,396
24	Uttar Pradesh	31,87,010
25	West Bengal	11,06,505
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13,772
27	Chandigarh	14,115
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9,389
29	Daman & Diu	1,066
30	Delhi	4,14,116
31	Lakshadweep	3,564
32	Pondicherry	43,255
	TOTAL	2,21,16,329